



Frequently Asked Questions

What is a PEL?

PEL stands for Planning and Environmental Linkages. According to FHWA's website, "Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) represents a collaborative and integrated approach to transportation decision-making that 1) considers environmental, community, and economic goals early in the transportation planning process, and 2) uses the information, analysis, and products developed during planning to inform the environmental review process." The PEL will be the formal description of the Route N Study documentation which will prepare the corridor for future development phases and associated approvals on a segment-by-segment basis as resources and funding permit.

Why was there such a long pause to the study?

In early-to-mid 2020, MoDOT and the study team were coordinating with the Federal Highway Administration, St. Charles County, and East-West Gateway to amend the region's long-range transportation plan with projects from the Route N draft Environmental Assessment (EA) document. An impasse was reached due to the lack of available funding to fully fund future right of way acquisition and construction along the corridor. In mid-2021, consensus was achieved on the best path forward being a transition to a PEL study that would allow future development phases and associated approvals to occur on a segment-by-segment basis as resources and funding permit. MoDOT and St. Charles County worked with the study team through late 2021 to begin the transition process and amend existing agreements for the revised study approach.

What happened to the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and why is it being replaced with PEL?

The Route N NEPA Study reached an impasse during the review of draft Environmental Assessment (EA). Due to the lack of available funding to fully fund the corridor on the region's Long Range Transportation Plan, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) would not be unable to formally approve the the NEPA document and provide a conclusion to the study. Without this approval, future development phases would not be eligible for federal funds or any required federal approvals. The transition to a Planning and Environment Linkages (PEL) study allows the study team to memorialize all the information developed and input received while setting up the corridor for future development phases and associated approvals on a segment-by-segment basis as resources and funding permit. This approach allows portion of the corridor to move forward without needing to commit funding for the construction of the entire corridor at this time.

How long will it take to complete the PEL study?

MoDOT and St. Charles County worked with the study team through late 2021 to begin the study transition process and amend existing agreements for the revised study approach. Review of the draft PEL documentation will begin in February 2022 with documentation anticipated to be finalized no later than May 2022. Formal communications with study stakeholders will be reinitiated by the end of February 2020 and include a public meeting in April 2022. The format of that meeting will be determined in the weeks prior to the meeting.

What is the timeline for design and construction?

The timeline for completing design, right of way acquisition, and constructing improvements will vary by study corridor segment.

- West of Route Z, St. Charles County is working with a consultant to complete preliminary design and prepare for future environmental approval for the future roadway between the Southpoint Prairie/Jackson Road intersection and the Route Z/Route N intersection.
- In the middle of the corridor between Route Z and Hopewell/Duello Road, St. Charles County is working with MoDOT to hire a consultant for preliminary roadway design.
- At the east end of the corridor between Hopewell/Duello Road and the I-64/Route 364, St. Charles County is working with MoDOT to hire a consultant for preliminary roadway design and prepare for future environmental approval.

How can the community give input on the Route N Study to PEL conversion?

Stakeholders on study distribution lists will be receiving communications from the study team in late February 2022. The community advisory group (CAG) will meet for a study update and elected officials will be invited to a briefing for government officials. Following that, a virtual public meeting will be held to explain the PEL study conversion and anticipated next steps. Stakeholders who are involved in the study are invited to attend and provide feedback or submit their comments through an online comment form. All comments will be recorded and reviewed prior to completion of the study.

Stay Informed. Stay Involved.

Visit the study website www.RouteNStudy.com
Call 1-888.ASK.MoDOT (275-6636) with questions or comments.

